

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I should like to call now on the honourable the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons to thank the President for his address, and at the same time to express the appreciation of the members of both Houses of Parliament for the gracious gesture on the part of the President in that he will meet all members in room 16 on the conclusion of this gathering.

*(Translation):*

**Honourable Mark Robert Drouin (Speaker of the Senate):** Mr. President, allow me, on behalf of the members of the Senate of Canada, to tell you how delighted we are to welcome you among us, and to express our gratitude to you for the admirable address you have delivered with so much eloquence.

*(Text):*

If I may, Mr. President, I should like to tell you in English that the Senate and the House of Commons had no trouble today in coming to agreement to greet you and Mrs. Kennedy in Ottawa, and if you should be pleased to return and honour us with a further visit I am sure that a truce can be arranged and that we will greet you again with the enthusiasm that you realize is in this assembly.

*(Translation):*

It is not without deep emotion that we have just heard you speak of the things that unite us. We are not the only ones to have heard the ideas you have expressed, the declarations of principle that you have just made. Your words were addressed to the Canadian people and beyond the Canadian people you were also addressing all those peoples of the universe who, according to our laws, are free peoples. Finally, and mainly perhaps, you were thinking of another world when you spoke to us of peace, taking us to witness. We know that world, it ignores us and menaces us in turn, that world is inimical yet has the same right as we have to live on man's planet. The political and human principles you entertain you have wished to express them for the first time on foreign soil before the Canadian parliament. If you chose to do so it was not indiscriminately. You may rest assured that the Canadian people appreciate your friendship towards us far more deeply than I can express it. Your presence in this house is a brilliant symbol for us.

In the difficult times we are going through, you may rest assured that Canadians are not merely fairweather friends. Twice the young men of our two countries in the prime of life have crossed the oceans to fight for liberty and for that democratic civilization to which

both our countries belong. Today, you are the head of those democracies. And we wish to assure you that the Canadian people working in co-operation and harmony with yours will bring you the support of its resources and friendship.

Your concern to extend beyond the borders of America a generous image of your country honours us because this policy rests on truth. My compatriots I am pleased to say, are, I believe, your voluntary and understanding ambassadors throughout the world—we want the free world to recognize the disinterested generosity of the great American people. We proclaim your proverbial generosity—we want people finally to thank you—to thank you for your philanthropists and your foundations that have helped to rebuild so many cathedrals and assisted so many in distress through the centuries and beyond all frontiers—to thank you for the incalculable benefits derived from the Marshall plan that enabled the whole of Europe to recover rapidly—to thank you for the considerable assistance you grant to underdeveloped countries—to thank you for being the rampart of truly free democracies—finally, to thank you on behalf of those who do not know how to thank.

The long and friendly history of our relations shows that two nations, although of unequal force, can live together peacefully and prosperously.

By your presence here you bring us the ever present friendship of your country. As for ours, you can feel it in the atmosphere of this assembly. You yourself have integrated in your person the knowledge and power to act. You have already qualified courage as the most admirable of all human virtues and you were right. Your political career which in spite of the summits you have already attained is only just beginning, has given us time and again proof of that courage which you were pleased to exalt in others. Your country has entrusted its future to a young, piercing and dynamic mind. It is to some extent our future and that of western civilization that you carry within you. Let us remember that our greatest ally is liberty. Democracies remain while dictatorships pass. A free man can never be vanquished—a free man is always the stronger. A reign of terror is always of short duration. Contemporary history brings us striking proof of this fact. Within recent times how many dictators have died an ignominious death and on their tombs democracy has blossomed again.

I could not forgive myself, Mr. President, if before finishing I did not add that coming from Quebec, that province which through its civilization, its language, its traditions and its religion differs from all the other provinces